

Dear Families,

My name is Karen Lane and I am the Religious Education Coordinator for the Braintree Catholic Collaborative. I am very excited to be starting a new year of Religious Education!

On Sunday, September 10, there will be “Blessing of the Backpacks” after the 9:00 mass at St Francis, as well as the 10:15a.m. and 6:00p.m. masses at St. Clare. Children are encouraged to bring their backpacks to mass to receive a special blessing!

We will have a RE Kickoff event on Sunday, September 24 as we celebrate the Feasts of St. Clare and St. Francis of Assisi. The event will be held at St. Clare Church after the 10:15 mass.

Classes for grades 1-8 will begin the week of October 3. There will be 2-3 classes per month and they will be offered on Sunday mornings as well as Tuesday and Thursday afternoons in the St. Clare Church Hall. There will also be 2-3 Family Faith Events throughout the year. More information on those will be forthcoming. If your child is in grades 9-10, a separate schedule and letter outlining the Confirmation program will be sent at a later date. If there are any 9th - 12th graders interested in being a volunteer helper for the grade 1-8 classes, there are many ways they can be involved, so please contact me if your high schooler is willing and able to help.

For the students in grades 1-8, there will be parent meetings at 7:00 p.m. at St. Clare Church on Monday, September 18 and Thursday September 21. Also, for anyone interested in volunteering to be a catechist, we will meet for an additional 10-15 minutes after those meetings. I know that everyone is extremely busy, but we need a minimum of 24 volunteers (8 for each class day) for the program to run smoothly and for the time to be a productive and meaningful experience for all of the children.

Links to registration forms, the class schedule, and event flyers can all be found on the Faith Formation page of the collaborative website (<https://braintreecatholic.org/faith-formation/>) Fees for classes are as follows: \$100 for one child, and \$50 for each additional child, with a family cap of \$200. Many thanks, and I look forward to a wonderful year of learning and growing in our faith together!

Kind regards,

Karen Lane

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